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ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE  
NEWS RELEASE



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**Commissioner Jim Saalfeld Elected as  
Board Chair by Fellow Commissioners**

**GRAND RAPIDS** – The Kent County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously this morning to appoint District 11 Commissioner Jim Saalfeld as Chair of the Board. Chair Saalfeld was Vice-Chair of the Board since 2013, Chair of the Legislative & Human Resources Committee in 2013, and Chair of the Finance and Physical Resources Committee since 2014. He represents Ada Township, East Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Township. He replaces Commissioner Dan Koorndyk who held the Chair role from January 2013 through December 2015.

Chair Saalfeld is an accomplished business leader and attorney who is currently employed as in-house counsel for BISSELL Homecare in Walker. He serves as Chair of the Kent Hospital Finance Authority, is on the Board of Directors for the Arthritis Foundation of West Michigan, is a Board member of the Grand Rapids Township Economic Development Corporation and is on the Board of the Northwestern University Alumni Club of West Michigan. Chair Saalfeld is also a panelist for the Michigan Supreme Court Attorney Discipline Board and a Fellow of the Michigan Bar Foundation. He chaired the Kent County Agribusiness Community Work Group in 2014-2015, the Community Collaboration Work Group in 2012-13, and served on the Judicial Resources Subcommittee in 2015.

Chair Saalfeld was first elected to the Board of Commissioners in 2010. "I am honored to be selected by my esteemed colleagues to lead this Board," said Chair Saalfeld. "When I ran for Commission, I promised I would work hard to bring fiscal common sense, good judgment and integrity to the County Commission. These are the same ideals that will guide me as Chair of the Board."

Chair Saalfeld believes the Commission will continue to make Kent County strong in 2016. "The County has established itself as a leader of collaboration with its fellow governments, the business community and philanthropic organizations," Chair Saalfeld stated. "This will be a priority for me. Because funding sources are not what they used to be, we must find ways to cooperate and collaborate with our partners to reduce the cost of government while delivering the services that the citizens expect. The "Three E's" will guide my decisions: Will it promote efficiencies? Will it make government more effective? Will it maximize economic development?"

The Board selected District 19 Commissioner Shana Shroll as Board Vice-Chair. "We have a lot of great issues coming up in 2016," Vice-Chair Shroll said. "I am grateful to be a part of this Board and I look forward to serving the people of this community." Commissioner Carol Hennessy was unanimously re-elected to the role of Minority Vice-Chair.

Chair Saalfeld appointed Vice-Chair Shroll to continue as Chair of the Legislative and Human Resources Committee, and Commissioner Hennessy as Vice-Chair. Chair Saalfeld selected Commissioner Dick Vander Molen to chair the Finance and Physical Resources Committee, and Commissioner Diane Jones as the Committee's Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Dick Vander Molen of District 13 announced that this will be his last term. He has been on the Board since 1987. "When I first came on (the Board) I was one of the youngest people here," Vander Molen laughed. "I've seen lots of changes. It's been a great experience."

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